



Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District
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In the 2005 Togus Pond Phosphorus Control Action Plan and Total Maximum Daily Load Report (TMDL) explains that Togus Pond has impaired water quality due primarily to historical nonpoint source (NPS) pollution as well as internal sediment recycling of phosphorus. Togus Pond has a history of supporting large algae blooms in the late summer-early fall. With these conditions, studies have shown that lake water clarity decreases and lakeshore property values decline.

The Togus (Worromontogus) Watershed Based Plan serves the purpose of 1) fulfilling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prerequisite for future federally funded work in this 303(d) listed waterbody, and 2) assisting the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the local watershed group with planning for efficient water quality improvement efforts.

Recovery of water quality in Togus, Little Togus Pond and Lower Togus Pond (ref. USGS & MeOGIS) is impeded by several physical factors, especially the shoreline, rural residential and agricultural development which adds high phosphorus loads in the lake. However, the lake is also the focus of a great deal of research performed by Colby College as well as one very active community volunteer group known as the Worromontogus Lake Association. A strong history of non-point source (NPS) reduction through the 319 program also bodes well for eventual recovery of water quality. The 319 program will be in its second phase in Togus Pond in 2008.

A 10-year remediation strategy is recommended based on an assessment of past BMP work as well as several in-lake treatment approaches. The recommended strategy for phosphorus reduction in the coming years is a combination of 1) continued external load reduction through site work at existing sources, 2) local site development rules to prevent or reduce future loading, and 3) continued BMP work in non related 319 projects such as possible formation of a Watershed District. The creation of the district would provide the communities with specialized enforcement/interpretation at the local level for all land use regulations. Examples include: Shoreland Zoning, External Plumbing Code, Stormwater Law, Sediment & Erosion Control Law, Site Law and Land Use Law. Plus, having an entity focused on water quality, resource management and public outreach regarding all these regulations.

We estimate that the intermediate goal of phosphorus load reduction of 21 kg P/yr can be obtained within 10 years at a cost of \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000. This would include costs for possible formation of watershed district, implementation of revised septic ordinance, septic data base, implementation of best management practices at over 100 priority sites (over 10 years), and continued education and outreach for both private landowners and town officials. Water quality recovery in the Togus Pond Watershed will benefit from the coordination of the active The Worromontogus Lake Association, City of Augusta, possibly The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District and Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Activity results should be periodically reviewed in order to modify the plan as needed over the next 10 years.